

INDEXA



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A non-profit organization for the enhancement of amateur radio, worldwide peace, and friendship
Daily Information Session — 14.236 MHz @ 23:30z

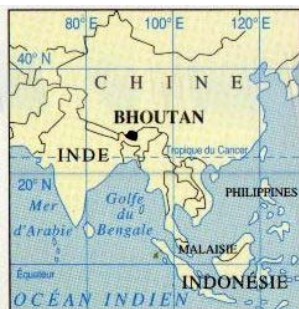
A52CDX—Bhutan *from Alain Tuduri, F5LMJ*



Four years after the A52FH operation, a Clipperton DX Club team went back to Bhutan

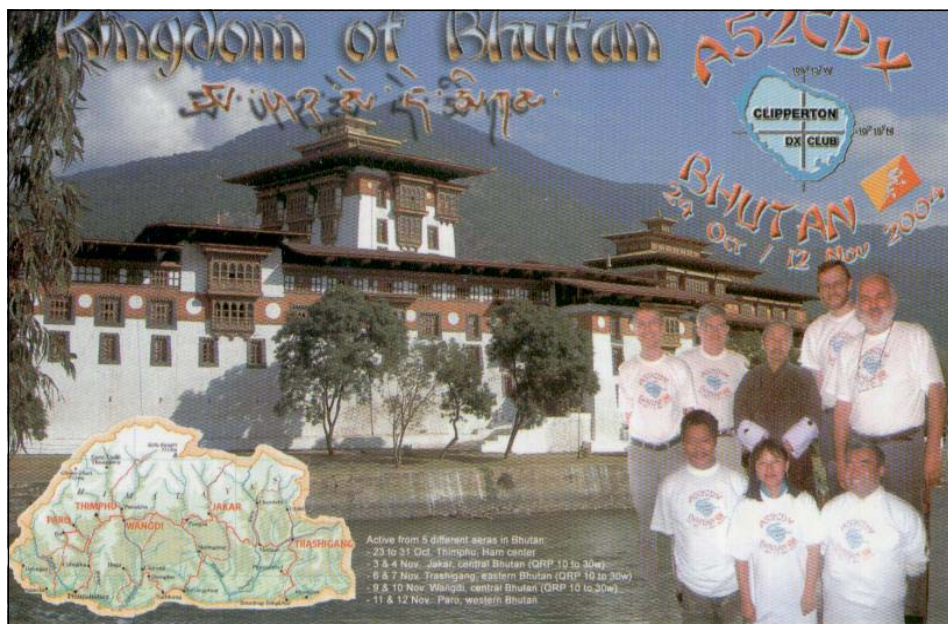
from 24 October to 12 November 2004.

We left Paris for Bangkok via Zurich on Friday, 22 October, then took a Druk Air (Royal Bhutan Airlines) flight at 4:00 a.m. on Sunday, 24 October and landed mid-morning in Paro. Four years later, we were back in Paro with a very pleasant sunshine.



The initial plan, at the request of the ministry of telecommunications, was to create a new radio club at the Jakar high school in the Bumthang province in the center of the country. We brought with us all the equipment required to set up a new club station.

We had planned to stay a week in the capital city, Thimphu, to test the equipment and report to the authorities before going to the center of the country; however, we did



QSL A52CDX via F9DK

not expect that Mr. Thinley Dorji, Director of the Bhutan Telecommunications Authority (BTA) would inform us during a meeting in Thimphu on 28 October that it would not be possible to install the radio club in Jakar due to the lack of agreement from the Ministry of Education.

We left the equipment at the Bhutan Telecom Authority for the installation of a radio station at Khomshar in the Shemgang province. We will try to coordinate the installation.

Thimphu Ham Center

From 24 to 31 October, we stayed in the capital city, Thimphu, at the Ham Center that we helped set up four years ago. Our host was our friend Yeshey Dorji, A51AA, and his family.

We completely overhauled the installation during our stay after finding out-of-order antennas, cut coaxial cables, and transceivers and power amplifiers in need of service. When we left, the Ham Center was fully operational from 160 to 10m. In a week we made more than 5,000

(Continued on page 2)

inside... Member Profile: W6YOO

International DX Convention — Visalia 2005

Bhutan.....from page 1



The A52CDX team with Mr. Thinley Dorji, BTA director

QSOs.

Propagation was capricious because it's really hard for signals to cross the Himalayas but there were some good moments:

- We had some good openings on 160m.
- We met with Ambika, A51YL, and Wangpo, A51WD, who made a few QSOS from our station.
- We made contacts with our friends from France who were always present on the bands.

A few other moments were not so good:

- Participation in the CQ WW SSB was almost impossible for us because we couldn't pass the "wall" of UA9 stations.
- Local QRM caused very poor conditions on the digital modes.



Thimphu Ham Center: Gérard, F2VX; Pema, A51BB; Vincent, G0LMX; Yeshey, A51AA; Ambika, A51YL; Wangpo, A51WD; Alain, F5LMJ; Jean-Louis, F9DK

During that week we also had the opportunity for a few visits to dzongs and monasteries in the Thimphu valley: Tango, Cheri, and Simtokha.



Young monks at Simtoka Dzong, Thimphu

Due to the lack of authorization for the Jakar high school project, we decided to go to the far east of the country via Jakar, Ugyen Choling, Mongar, Trashigang, then return via Wangdi, Punakha and Paro.

From 3 to 12 November, we managed to be active from 4 out of the country's 21 provinces.

Jakar and Ugyen Choling

On 1 November we departed for Jakar, then Ugyen Choling in the center of the country where we had arranged to meet François Pommaret, the French ethnologist specialist of Bhutan and president of the association "Les Amis du Bhoutan" (The Friends of Bhutan), who gave us considerable support for the preparation of the trip.

Ugyen Choling is a small village in central Bhutan. It has no running water, electricity, or roads. We spent two unforgettable days there.

We were back in Jakar on 3 November where we installed the station and the G5RV antenna at the "river lodge" hotel. A pile-up of JAs was starting to build up when we discovered how chaotic the power supply can be in central Bhutan. From 120 volts at the beginning of



Ugyen Choling, Bhumtang, central Bhutan

the evening, tension jumped to 180v then 220v during the night when electricity consumption was lower. The power supply of our TS50 did not resist, which forced us to stop immediately and operate QRP on battery power with 10 to 30 watts for the remainder of our stay.



Traditional archery in Trashigang

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**QRP operation on battery power,
Trashigang**

Toward the east of the country

There are only 500 kilometers between the capital city, Thimphu, and the town of Trashigang in the far east of the country but it takes 22 hours by road. The road is non-existent in places after tumbling down the mountainside during the monsoon. There is a pass at 4,000 meters with vertical cliffs... we thought at times it would have been better to think twice before getting there!

If the capital city, Thimphu, is fast modernizing, the east has remained very traditional. The climate is sub-tropical, there are very few tourists and people are very friendly.



The A52CDX license

On 6 and 7 November, in Trashigang a 60AH battery with a small charger allowed us to make 60 QSOs with only 10 watts.

Back to Paro

Our trip was now almost over. It was time to go back to Paro from where we would fly back home on 12 November.

We made an overnight stop in

Wangdi Phodrang on 9 November where we made over 100 QSOs while operating QRP with 30 watts.

We visited Punakha Dzong (the picture on our QSL card), then made a last overnight stop in Paro on 11 November where we made 160 QSOs for our last night in Bhutan.

In total we made over 5,600 QSOs.



The Paro bridge made famous by the film, "Little Buddha"

Band	CW	SSB	Digital Modes
160m	78		
80m	229	127	
40m	1180	229	10
30m	158		
20m	472	1111	73
17m	288	181	78
15m	275	577	
12m	85	106	
10m	5	377	
Total	2770	2708	161

Many thanks to INDEXA and the companies, clubs, associations and individuals who helped us to make this project a reality!

The INDEXA newsletter is now available via e-mail. For more information, contact Bill Jennings, W4UNP, at <w4unp@comporium.net>.

Member Profile Harry, W6YOO



Jerry Hodges, W6JAC, and Harry Hodges, W6YOO, at a Chilean research station and penguin rookery on the continent of Antarctica.

INDEXA member, Harry Hodges, W6YOO, was born in Los Angeles, CA on October 8, 1928.

He joined the US Merchant Marine at age 16 in October 1944 and served until April 1946. He then joined the US Army in July 1946 and received a battlefield appointment to 2nd Lt. in Korea, July 1952. Harry served in various capacities at a number of US and overseas posts. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers on May 31, 1974.

Harry has an undergraduate degree from the University of Omaha (1964) and an MBA from National University (1979).

He worked as Director of Plant Operations at Mesa Vista Hospital in San Diego from 1977 until his retirement in 1990.

He became a Ham in 1973 as ZP5HZ in Paraguay and in the same year he received a Conditional Class US license as WA6YOO. He upgraded to Advanced and Extra Class in 1987 and received his present call in June 1999.

In 1982 he married Jerry Allaine Carter.

Harry has earned numerous DX awards including DXCC Honor Roll (Mixed and Phone). He is a member of QCWA, FISTS, 10-10 and is a former ARRL Section Manager (San Diego Section), past president of

(Continued on page 4)

W6YOOfrom page 3

Palomar Amateur Radio Club, past president of EARS, secretary/treasurer of San Diego DX Club, and the VE Team Leader (Escondido, CA) for SANDARC-VEC. He is a member of ARES and US Army MARS (AAR9LX).

His hobbies, in addition to amateur radio, include travel, photography, gardening, and gourmet cooking.

His XYL holds the callsign W6JAC and they both qualify for the WOAC (Walked On All Continents) Award.

If you would like to share coffee and conversation, Harry and Jerry invite you to drop by for a visit!

(Excerpt from QZR.com with permission of W6YOO)

International DX Convention—Visalia '05

INDEXA thanks the Northern California DX Club for its hospitality during the 2005 International DX Convention in Visalia.

For the third consecutive year, Information Session Staff Member Don, KB6KTV, and his XYL, Camille, represented INDEXA at the convention. Other members present included INDEXA Director, Nellie Saltiel de Lazard, XE1CI, and Bob Allphin, K4UEE.



Don, KB6KTV, greets Bharathi, VU2RBI



Nellie, XE1CI, & Bharathi, VU2RBI



Bob, K4UEE, and Nellie, XE1CI

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